EVEL
ONE

Suddenly
from heaven
there came a sound
like the rush of a violent
wind, and it filled
the entire house
where they were sitting
Acts 2:2

Soundings

News and Information from the
Northwest Washington Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 22 Number 11 December 2005

A Christmas Greeting

From ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

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Dear friends,

We wait in darkness, fearing that the light will never come. We wait in silence, fearing that there will be no good news. We wait alone, fearing the isolation and separation that darkness brings. We attempt to illumine our own path, but find neither the way nor the truth.

Scripture brings words of promise to us:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. To us a child is born, to us a Son is given. In him is life, and the life was the light of all people.

The song of the angels and the glory of the heavens pierce our darkness and fill our silence. Joy overcomes our terror and we believe the wondrous good news that Jesus, Savior and Messiah, has been born. We rejoice, carrying the light of Christ as we tell the Good News to everyone.

This Christmas season, may you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the clarity of the angels, the joy of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the light and peace of the Christ child.

With you, we are living in God's amazing grace,

Mark and Ione Hanson

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Synod News

- **The Northwest Washington 2006 Synod Assembly** will take place on Friday, June 2, and Saturday, June 3, at the Lynnwood Convention Center, 3711 196th Street SW, Lynnwood. The theme will be Global Mission and World Hunger. Keynote speaker for this year's Assembly is the Reverend Howard (Howie) Wennes.

- The annual **Synod Office Christmas Open House** will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 15, at the synod office.

May the Birth of Him
Who Was Born in a
Manger Bring You
Blessings of Joy, Peace,
Love and Hope in the
New Year and Always.

Bishop Chris Boerger and the Staff of the Northwest Washington Synod

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5519 Phinney Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103-5829.
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
Email: office@lutheransnw.org. Website: www.lutheransnw.org.

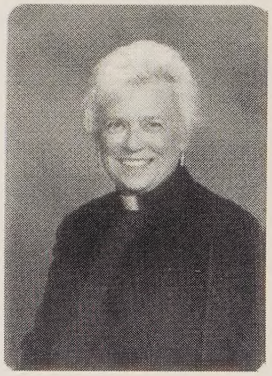
Synod Office Staff:
The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org
General Office Information—office@lutheransnw.org

Deadline for the January 2006 issue of Soundings *and* The Spirit *is Monday, Dec. 5. Send information to: Margit Peiffle, 21721 88th Ave. NE, Arlington, WA 98223; margit@lutheransnw.org; 425-299-6667; fax 360-435-5955.*

Permission is granted for congregations to copy Soundings *and* The Spirit. *Newsletters are available to download at www.lutheransnw.org/News&Info.*

A Word From The Assistant To The Bishop

"I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 NRSV



The Reverend
Jan Nesse

In visiting with congregation transition teams, call committees, church councils, and adult studies, we have heard some recurring themes that have to do with developing a stronger congregation.

Sometimes the questions are motivated by the budget, sometimes by the declining membership, and sometimes by a faithful response to God's call to reach out with the gospel. In every congregation the way the issue is addressed will differ in specifics because every congregation must begin where it is and work with the resources it has and can access.

One resource that congregations can now access, began in our synod as a Pilot Project under the direction of the Board of Outreach. It is Natural Church Development (NCD).

Neither the synod nor the ELCA invented it but it came out of a study done in Germany among 5000 churches worldwide. The research of Christian Schwarz and Christoph Schalk verified a link between church health and church growth and showed what most of us have believed for a long time, that healthy churches are growing churches.

There is sometimes an assumption made that churches that are growing are automatically *good churches.* Maybe that is because it's easier to measure quantity than quality. But I see an error in logic.

Cancer grows, often rapidly but no one says that this is a good thing. Rick Warren, author of Purpose Driven Church, says "... a far better focal point than church growth is church health. Size is not the issue. You can be big and healthy, or big and flabby. You can be small and healthy, or small and wimpy. Big isn't better; small isn't better. Healthy is better. So I'm interested in helping churches become balanced and healthy. If churches are healthy, growth is a natural occurrence. I don't have to command my kids to grow. If I provide them with a healthy environment, growth is automatic." [Rick Warren; Growing Your Church

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A Word from the Assistant to the Bishop

Through Training and Motivation; Making Ministry Healthy; pp. 123-126.]

NCD's purpose is to help churches become balanced and healthy. This side of heaven, that doesn't mean perfect, but only healthier. "Natural church development has no quantitative approach ('How do we get more people to attend services?') but looks at the quality of church life as the key to church development…[It] does not attempt to 'make' church growth, but [creates the environment] to release the growth automatisms, with which God Himself builds the church." [Christian Schwarz; Natural Church Development: A Guide to Eight Essential Qualities of Healthy Churches; p. 14.]

Since the NCD pilot project in our synod ended in July, NCD has become a resource within our synod. There are a growing number of congregations which have engaged the process and a growing number of people who have taken the training to be coaches for new NCD congregations. In a nutshell the NCD coach works with a congregation through six phases of the process:

1) preparation of the congregation,
2) diagnosis of the relative health of eight characteristics,
3) analysis of the results of the diagnosis,
4) establishment of goals and action plans,
5) implementation and monitoring of the actions, and
6) evaluation of the process and repeat of the cycle.

If your congregation would like to be introduced to the NCD process and the resources available within the synod, call me at the synod office. I would be happy to come to your council, leadership team or other group to talk about how this may work for your congregation. I can also put you in contact with a number of people who have engaged the process within the synod.

Like all tools and resources, NCD is helpful only to the extent that it is used. To find out more about NCD on line go to www.ncd-international.org.

Partners For Nurture 2006

Join 200 other Christian education volunteers for a day-long training and refreshment event on Saturday, Jan. 28, at Trinity Lutheran College in Issaquah. The day includes keynote sessions and over 30 workshops from which to choose from. Make this day a "gift" for your Christian education staff by bringing the whole team! More information at www.tlc.edu/partners.

How Are We Helping Around the World

ELCA Allocates $675,000 to Aid Survivors of Disasters Worldwide—The ELCA allocated $675,000 to help people affected by natural and human-made disasters around the world, according to Dr. Belletech Deressa, director for international development and disaster response, ELCA Global Mission. "There are many international disasters. However, the ELCA responds when there are major needs, especially to disasters that are not adequately funded or are forgotten," said Deressa. ELCA International Disaster Response sent:

- $200,000 to Church World Service (CWS), which is distributing food, blankets and other relief items to survivors of an Oct. 8 earthquake in Pakistan.
- $100,000 to LWF, which is helping citizens of southern Sudan to return home. Since 1982 the civil war there has killed millions of southern Sudanese and displaced millions more, Deressa said. With the recent peace agreement between the government of Sudan and Sudan Peoples Liberation Front, citizens of southern Sudan are now returning home, she said.

ELCA International Disaster Response also sent funds to Action by Churches Together (ACT), which is involved in relief and recovery operations in other parts of the world:

- $100,000 to support recovery efforts in Central America, after heavy rains from Hurricane Stan caused death and destruction, particularly in El Salvador and Guatemala
- $75,000 to distribute food for people affected by drought conditions in Mozambique
- $50,000 to support repatriation efforts for Angolan refugees in Zambia
- $50,000 to resettle returnees in Angola.

Lutherans Continue Damage Assessment Following Hurricane Wilma—Lutheran Disaster Response continues to assess damage and identify the immediate needs of people and communities just hours after Hurricane Wilma struck the southwestern coast of Florida on Oct 24.

"Our local Lutheran Disaster Response affiliate, Lutheran Services in Florida, Tampa, is coordinating volunteers to help with clean-up and rebuilding efforts," said Heather L. Feltman, director for Lutheran Disaster Response and director for ELCA Domestic Disaster Response. Lutheran congregations in hurricane-affected areas are reporting issues ranging from minimal landscape damage to missing roofs, with one building entirely destroyed, said Feltman.

This article is a combination of two ELCA press releases. To view the press releases in their entirety, please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on News and Information.

God Sent Bananas

by Kim Trosky, member of Harbour Pointe Lutheran in Mukilteo

As my husband and I were finalizing vacation plans, Hurricane Katrina struck, wreaking havoc for thousands of people. Suddenly, our plans seemed irrelevant, and we felt called to help. We volunteered with Lutheran Disaster Response through the ELCA website link and were deployed to Bethel Lutheran Church in Biloxi, Mississippi.

Within minutes of arrival, we were working on relief efforts. A 53-foot truck came from Virginia and we helped unload it. But that delivery, which seemed so large, lasted only a day, and we were praying for another truck. We urged our clients to pray for trucks, and when one arrived, everyone shouted with joy, "God sent another truck! Amen!"

One afternoon, the shelves were especially bare--only pork'n beans remained. One of the volunteers walked an elderly client home with her supplies, and a trucker stopped to ask if they would like some bananas. The volunteer explained that he was with LDR and yes, we would take bananas. The load had been dumped over and could not be sold as premium fruit, so the trucker was donating the bananas. Soon, twenty cases of bananas were being distributed to the fruit-starved people of Biloxi, and they began cheering, "God sent bananas! Amen! God sent bananas! Thank you, Lord." The next day, God sent bagels.

Miracles and grace reign in Mississippi. Go in peace; serve the Lord.

One At A Time

by Rev. Glen Aaberg, pastor at Cross and Crown Lutheran Church, Renton

Editor's Note: It was not planned in advance, but Kim Trosky and her husband did end up helping at the same time and at the same congregation as Pastor Glen Aaberg.

I arrived at Bethel Lutheran Church in Biloxi, Miss., on October 1 and spent 11 days there. I was there as a guest of the Southeast Synod of the ELCA, as an Assisting Minister for Pastoral Care.

Throughout my time in Mississippi, I was continually being taught one important lesson. The mess down there, the devastation, is vast (many square miles) and it is also very deep, affecting everyone in all kinds of ways that are not always apparent at first meetings. It is huge and it is overwhelming.

However, healing happens one person at a time, one family at a time, one can of food at a time, one quilt at a time, one "please," one "thank you," one "excuse me," one "tell me what happened" and one "I'm so sorry" at a time. Ministry seems to begin at the point that we are overwhelmed and unable to fix things, just when we feel powerless, when we are given the strength to give the person in front of us our full attention and our whole heart.

Whether you're thinking of going to the Gulf Coast to help, or whether you're considering giving aid in some other way, I pray that in the midst of being overwhelmed you will be blessed as I have been to

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State Advocate's Corner

by The Rev. Paul Benz

206-464-4133
pbenz@lcsnw.org
www.lppowa.org

The last month of the year has arrived again. A blessed Advent and Christmas to you. It has been another wonderful year of serving you as director of the ELCA's advocacy ministry in this state. The *three legs* of Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO)—church, legislative and community—take me to many places where I represent the ELCA as the voice advocating justice for the *least of these in our midst.*

As I think of the word advent I give thanks, like all of you, for the coming of the Christ Child breaking into our lives, relationships and the world with the message of everlasting peace, unconditional love and salvation for all. What an amazing God we have who would come, as one of us, to show us the way to be at one with Him, with neighbor and with our self.

In this ministry of advocacy you know that I often mention the two hands of advocacy. Lutherans, for the most part, receive a grade of A for their direct services hand of advocating for their neighbor in need of food, shelter, health care and financial assistance. But, when it comes to the other hand of advocacy that asks *what does this mean* that our neighbor continues to be in need (e.g., the food lines remain, there is *no more room in the inn* at our homeless shelters, the need for a livable wage, and the education and training needed for such a job) we don't excel at raising these questions to the power brokers and our elected officials.

As the Christ Child came into this world there was the proclamation by the angels *Good News of Great Joy – a Savior has been born to you*! This is good news to the poor and vulnerable, but seldom to the powerful of our day. This birth spoke truth to power from the very beginning. May you and I and our congregation, as we do the direct services for our neighbor in need at this time of year, not forget the ongoing need to engage the decision makers of government and the needs of our neighbor.

Thank you for your past and continued support. I leave you with:

- Governor Gregoire releases her supplemental budget around December 15. Will this be good news for our children, working poor, and immigrants in our midst?
- The state legislature convenes for sixty days beginning January 9 and Congress also begins another session later that month. Lutheran Advocacy Day will be Thursday, Feb. 9, at Gull Harbor Lutheran in Olympia. Let's have 100 Lutherans in our state capitol.
- Invite me or our seminary intern, Jeanette Leisk, to visit your congregation to share and strategize about advocacy at the local level, and what it means to the public church in your setting.

Let Your Light Shine

by Margit Peiffle, Communications Administrator

More than 120 Northwest Washington Synod rostered leaders and their spouses attended the 2005 Bishop's Convocation at Harrison Hot Springs in mid-October. The gathering gave everyone an opportunity for fellowship, learning, worship and a time to relax.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Phil Baker from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in South Carolina. Dr. Baker's keynote address was called *Mandate for Mission in the United States.* His talk centered on the text of Matthew 28:18-20. (He also mentioned that maybe a better verse for the 21st century is 2 Corinthians 5:14-31.) Bishop Chris Boerger also spoke at the convocation.

Dr. Baker gave an energetic talk sharing with us that he believes that mission is grounded in God's actions: past, present and future. He shared with us that in the New Testament, Christian faith was never thought of as an institution with a program. Always, and everywhere, the Christian faith is a people movement with a message of what God has done, is doing and promises yet to do. He commented about how we, who live in the Northwest Washington Synod, are in the center of the mission field, i.e. that the mission field is not over there but wherever the people of God are.

During his talk he mentioned that we need to focus on discipleship formation, not on church membership. He said that people are thirsty for God, but what turns people off from church and faith is that we, Christians, are not distinguishable from the culture around us. The unchurched are not looking for perfection. They are looking for evidence that faith makes them feel different.

"Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16

Bishop Chris Boerger's presentation was called, *What Is The Church?* After giving an overview of the debate both before and after the formation of the ELCA, Bishop Boerger noted that Luther saw the church as the holy people of God, the saints gathered by the work of the Holy Spirit. Not everyone outside the church was evil and not everyone inside the church was holy. Bishop Boerger reminded us that Luther gave us seven signs, or markers, that let us know that the gathering of people was in fact the gathering of God's holy people.

After highlighting the seven posts, Boerger went on to say that none of the marks, except maybe the office of ministry, has anything to do

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More Information From The 2005 Bishop's Convo

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with structure. It is the assembly of God's holy people around the word and sacraments. "When we turn inward to ask the structural question, then we miss the outward call of God," he said. "The church is…always looking outside itself for the power and call of God and for the mission field in which it is called to serve."

Let Your Light Shine

Convo Presentations Available

The presentations from both Bishop Chris Boerger and keynote speaker Dr. Phil Baker are available on the Synod's website. You can access the information at: www.lutheransnw.org/leadership. You can also view some photos that were taken during the convocation. For more information about Dr. Phil Baker please visit Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary's website at www.ltss.edu.

Step-By-Step

The Bishop's Convocation was the occasion to roll out the *Step-By-Step Fitness for Leaders Campaign* within the synod. Working with the Board of Pensions, participants at the convocation received a pedometer and a cookbook and from the synod an instruction sheet for recording your progress. Bishop Boerger mentioned in the introduction of the program that if the health of our rostered leaders doesn't improve, congregations may not be able to afford the increasing rates of health insurance. The Board of Pensions has been working with the Mayo Clinic to address preventive strategies in health maintenance. If you were not at the convocation, you may contact the synod office and pick up a cookbook and pedometer which has been held in your name.

Convo Committee Members

The Bishop's Convo Committee includes: Pastor Randy Grauer, Christ the Servant in Bellingham; Pastor Julie Josund, Dir. of the Institute for Clergy and Congregational Renewal, Pacific Lutheran University; Estelle Morely, Associate in Ministry, Lutheran Memorial in Seattle; and Pastor Randy Sinn, Faith Lutheran in North Lakewood.

Convo 2006

The Bishop's Convocation Committee is working hard on setting up the plans for next year's Convo. The Convo will be held at Harrison Hot Springs. Dates are yet to be determined. The Convo Committee welcomes your ideas and suggestions.

Parish Nursing/ Health Ministry At Your Congregation

Plan to attend an interesting program called *Can a Parish Nursing/ Health Ministry benefit your congregation?* This program will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 5, at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) in Tacoma in room 206/210.

A Parish Nurse provides an intentional focus on wholeness healing and caring for one another within the congregation and the community. Find out more about Parish Nursing/Health Ministry and how it can benefit your church at this informational meeting. Refreshments will be served. Contact Terry Bennett at 253-535-7683.

Faithful Care of the Dying

Plan now to attend a 2006 summer event coordinated by The Ernest Becker Summer Institute and Seattle University called *Finitude, Medical Futility, and Faithful Care of the Dying.* This event will be held from 7 p.m. on July 27 through 3 p.m. on July 29 at Seattle University, Campian Hall. Keynote speaker is Ira Byock, M.D., author of *Dying Well: The Prospect for Growth at the End of Life* (www.dyingwell.com). Registration is $150 and includes two lunches. More details to follow.

The Ernest Becker Institute is intended for hospital and hospice chaplains, clergy, physicians, nurses, social workers, therapists, hospice workers and others who are interested in strengthening the spiritual dimensions of care at the time of death. For further information, please call The Ernest Becker Foundation, 206-232-2994 or email nelgee@u.washington.edu. The website address is: http://faculty.washington.edu/nelgee/index.html.

New Resource for Grief Ministry

Journeying through Grief is a set of four short books from Stephen Ministries that pastors, congregations and lay people can give to grieving people at four crucial times during the first year after a loved one has died. Each book looks at what the person is likely to be experiencing at that point in grief and offers care assurance, and hope.

Written by Kenneth Haugk--pastor, psychologist, and founder of Stephen Ministries--the books provide a simple yet significant way to reach out to the bereaved again and again. Each set is $9.95 and includes the four books, four mailing envelopes, and a tracking card that makes it easy to know when to send each book. Also available is a *Giver's Guide* with ideas for using the books and four sample letters to personalize and adapt to send with each book. To learn more, or to order, visit www.grief-books.org or call Stephen Ministries at 314-428-2600.

Update
ELCA Board of Pensions

Editor's Note: This is the last month that we will see Rev. Lowell Knutson's name in print associated with the Board of Pensions. He is retiring as the Board of Pensions' Representative for our synod at the end of December. We thank him for his work, his support and his mission. Blessings to him.

The Synod's local regional representative is

The Rev. Lowell Knutson
8003 Sandpoint Way NE, B-23; Seattle, WA 98115

206-528-7422
email knutsonls@jps.net

- **Talk Turkey This Thanksgiving**—ELCA Vocation and Education and the Board of Pensions invite you to encourage your synod, congregations and parishioners to talk turkey this Thanksgiving. The U.S. Surgeon General has declared Thanksgiving Day to be National Family History Day. Following this national initiative, our health and wellness campaign focuses on the importance of discussing family health history and identifying hereditary risk factors when families gather together for the holidays. For help with your promotional efforts, a poster and article are available to download at www.elcabop.org/resources_tools/health_tutorials/talk_turkey.asp.
- **Lower Eligibility Age For Participating Annuity Bridge Fund**—Starting in January, ELCA Retirement Plan members can move money into the Participating Annuity Bridge Fund at age 55 (or 30 years of service). This special balanced fund, for investing money that will be annuitized, is designed to avoid short-term market losses, yet benefit from market gains over time. For more information see www.elcabop.org/benefit_plans/pabf.asp.
- **New Option Can Help Enroll Lay Employees**—Starting Jan. 1, the ELCA Retirement Plan will provide a new 6 percent employer contribution option for congregations that have wanted to enroll non-rostered lay employees in the ELCA Pension and Other Benefits Program, but could not afford to do so. Look for more information coming soon at http://www.elcabop.org/news_events/plan_changes/index.asp.
- **Get Ready For Mayo Clinic's Health Risk Assessment**—Coming Jan. 1 through Feb. 28, rostered leaders and churchworkers have the opportunity to take Mayo Clinic's health risk assessment to help them evaluate their health status. This confidential online tool will help them understand their health risks and take steps to ensure a healthier future. Participants will also receive a free copy of Bishop Murray Finck's book, *Stretch & Pray: A Daily Discipline for Spiritual and Physical Health and Wellness*. Look for more information coming soon at www.elcaforwellness.org

News and Notes

- Congratulations to the members of **Advent Lutheran Church, Snohomish.** They celebrated the congregation's 25th Anniversary in November.
- Congratulations to **Lynne Ogren, Associate in Ministry,** who was commissioned on November 12 at Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor.
- Congratulations to The **Rev. Jocelyn Carson** on her ordination on November 13 at Bethel in Shoreline.
- Congratulations to The **Rev. Jimmy Hao** on his ordination on October 30 at Grace Chinese in Seattle.
- Congratulations to **The Rev. Anne Hall** on her commissioning on October 23 at University in Seattle.
- A special thanks to **Pastor John Lindsay, Lutheran Church of the San Juans**, and his detective work. He was able to find out that ***Joy to the World,*** a one-hour ABC television special produced by the ELCA, is scheduled to air on KOMO-TV Channel 4 from 6 to 7 a.m. on Christmas Day. This holiday worship service includes a joyful mix of music and praise from ELCA African American, Asian, American Indian, Arab and Middle Eastern, and Latino congregations. The rich and diverse cultural blend begins with a Santa Lucia celebration in the Swedish Lutheran tradition. To help you to promote this broadcast, visit www.elca.org/joytotheworld.
- **Immanuel in Seattle** was recently featured in the Seattle Times. The congregation worked together with its new neighbors (Vulcan, a developer, and NBBJ, an architectural firm) and was able to complete its renovation project.
- **Members of Kent in Kent** participated in a six-mile Crop Walk that began and ended at Kent Lutheran. Last year walkers from Kent collected $1,925 and this year they raised $2,352. In all, the ten congregations in the Kent area that participated in this year's Crop Walk raised $13,835. Way to go.
- **Congregations Celebrate with Music—Trinity Lutheran in Lynnwood** is offering a series of *Artists at the Organ*. Visit Trinity's website at www.trinitylutheranchurch.com for a full listing. **Faith in Redmond** is also offering a series of musical events called *Music and the Arts at Faith.* Visit Faith's website at www.faithluth.org for a full listing of events.
- Beginning in October **Morning Star in Monroe** began to offer a contemporary worship service at 7 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month. The congregation's newsletter announced the service with: *Clap your hands, stomp your feet, praise the Lord with music.*
- Information and resources for the **2006 Week of Prayer for Christian**

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News and Notes

Unity (WPCU) is now available on the website at www.geii.org. Traditionally WPCU is observed January 18-25. The theme and scripture for WPCU 2006 is: *Where two or three are gathered in my name...* (Matthew 18:15-22)

- You can visit the **ELCA Department of Research and Evaluation** website to find out all kinds of information. Did you know that the oldest *active* ELCA pastor is 84 years old? Did you know that the oldest ELCA congregation was founded in 1649? For more factoides, visit www.elca.org/re/demograf.
- There are some congregations in our synod that still have funds remaining with **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.** You need to submit your forms by the end of the year.

Within Our Family

To Keep In Our Prayers...

We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **Rev. Ben Bretheim (ret.)**
- † **Rev. Chuck Davis,** Counseling Associates in Edmonds, and his **wife Nancy**
- † **Rev. Carol Jensen,** St. John United, Seattle
- † **Rev. Robert Moylan (ret.) and his wife Pat**
- † **Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.)**
- † **Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)**
- † **Rev. Ron Soine (ret.)**

We pray for:

† **The family of Myrtle Swanson,** mother of Bishop Paul Swanson of the Oregon Synod. Myrtle passed away on Nov. 3. Her service was held at Gethsemane in Seattle. She is survived by her spouse, The Rev. Roland Swanson (ret.) of Redmond; four sons and their spouses; 16 grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Memorial gifts may be given to Gethsemane or Columbia Lutheran Home of Seattle. Peace be to her memory.

† **Sylvia Maier, wife of The Rev. Don Maier (ret.),** successfully underwent hip replacement surgery and is recovering well. Thanks be to God.

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek ,** pastor at Christ in Ferndale, as he continues to heal from surgery.

† All the families affected by the **recent hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters.** We pray for those affected by the famine in Niger. We pray for all the relief workers as they continue on the journey of recovery.

In The Region 1 Resource Center

Video Resources

In The Resource Center

To reserve videos, contact Region 1 at 206-624-0093, ext. 100

Fierce Goodbye—Living in the Shadow of Suicide

In this video documentary, five loving and courageous families take you to the innermost depths of their heartbreak and pain to bring hope and healing to others dealing with the numbing aftereffects of suicide. Additional families, individuals, mental health experts, Bible scholars and theologians add their experiences and insights in dealing with the issue of suicide. The documentary is a groundbreaking look at the role of faith and suicide and addresses concerns such as : Where is my loved one now? Can they be forgiven? How I can still have faith and go on?

Hosted by Judy Collins, the program also features Dr. Kay Redfield Jamison, professor of psychiatry at Johns Hopkins University. It is 44 minutes in length and is produced by Mennonite Media. A four-session study guide accompanies the video. Ask for V-1408 when you call the Resource Center.

Lutherland Tour

Fall 2006

Are you interested in traveling in the footsteps of Martin Luther? Would you like to visit many of the sites of the Lutheran Reformation?

Vashon Lutheran Church is putting together a Lutherland trip from Oct. 24 (leaving the US) to Nov. 7 (date of return). You will have the opportunity to be in Wittenberg on Reformation Sunday. Currently, we are in the process of organizing a worship service on or around Reformation Day, with the help of the ELCA Wittenberg Center.

Where will you go? What will you see? (Following is a condensed version.) Augsburg; Salzburg (250th birthday of Mozart in 2006); Eisenach (Wartburg Castle; birthplace of Johann Sebastian Bach); Erfurt; Buchenwald (pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer was held captive); Wittenberg.

The tour will be led by Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt, a native of Germany, who is familiar with many of the sites. The cost (minimum of 25 traveling) is $2,320. Airfare is not included. If you are interested please contact Pastor Bjoern Meinhardt, Vashon Lutheran Church, PO Box 2930, Vashon, WA 98070; phone 206-463-2655 or e-mail bjoern_meinhardt@hotmail.com.

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One At A Time

learn once again that, in these big, terrible, overwhelming situations, help and healing happen one person, one gesture at a time.

I am so thankful for the generosity of my congregation, and for the support of Bishop Chris Boerger and Bishop Ronald Warren of the Southeastern Synod located in Atlanta, which made this trip possible. I look forward to finding my way there again.

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Anne Hall	University, Seattle	10/23/2005
Jianhua Jimmy Hao	Grace Chinese, Seattle	10/30/2005
Larry Johnson	Holden Village, Capital Campaign Dir	10/1/2005
Julie Josund	Pacific Lutheran University	9/30/2005
Lynne Ogren	Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	11/12/2005
Occasions		
25th Anniversary	Advent, Snohomish	10/31/2005
Resignations		
Julie Josund	Calvary, Seattle	9/30/2005
Tom McMichael	Hope, Lynden	11/15/2005
Constance Miller Vineyard	Holy Trinity, Mercer Island	11/20/2005

Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current Pastor, Interim Pastor, or Supply Pastor
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	A	NV	Marty Dasler, Lead Pastor
Bellevue, Cross of Christ	PR	P	Maynard Atik, Interim
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	C	John Olson, Interim
Bellingham, St. John	PR	I	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	I	Douglas Stensby, Interim
Camano, Camano Island	PR	P	Chris Anderson, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	PR	TR	Katheryn Schlechter and Linda Nou, Interim Pastors
Everett, Faith	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Lynden, Hope	Pr	NV	Interim (pending)
Mountlake Terrace, Bethesda	PR	P	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity	PR	TR	Larry Thompson, Supply
Redmond, Faith	PR	TR	Paul Wuest, Interim
Seattle, St. Paul's of Shorewood	PR	C	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Our Saviour's	PR	TR	Mike Swain, Interim
Woodenville, Wooden Cross	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process

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Soundings
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